Steps to reduce Fiscal Deficit

1041. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading economists have urged Government to take steps to reduce fiscal deficit, rationalise subsidies, privatise the non-core public sector to utilise energy optimally and improve tax administration;

(b) whether Government have considered these views; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The suggestions made by the Economists, as also by other organisations and individuals, are taken into consideration while formulating Government Policies.

Financial Assistance received from USAID

1042. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been receiving financial assistance from USAID and if so, what is the quantum of funds received during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the assistance given by USAID is not being fully utilised leaving huge amounts to lapse and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a high power committee to look into this problem of mismanagement and non-utilisation of available funds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): USAID have provided financial assistance in the last three US fiscal years (October to September as follows:

Fiscal year 1988—US $ 22.23 million
Fiscal Year 1989—US $ 22.09 million
Fiscal Year 1990—US $ 15.47 million

(b) Assistance is provided on incremental basis towards projects being implemented with USAID assistance. The assistance is spread over the entire span of the project extending between six to eight years. Unutilised amounts would therefore remain each year until project completion. Implementation of some of the projects is, no doubt, behind schedule because of various reasons like non-availability of adequate counterpart rupee funds, exchange rate fluctuation, delay in land acquisition, etc.

(c) No Sir. As the progress of projects financed with foreign assistance is constantly being reviewed at appropriate levels both at the Centre and the States, there is no need for a high power committee to review the projects.

बड़ी निगमित संस्थाओं द्वारा लिये गए बैंक ऋणों की धनराशि को मुनाफाखोरी के प्रयोजनार्थ उपयोग में लाया जाना

1043. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 20 नवम्बर, 1990 के "द इकनोमिक टाइम्स" में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है कि बड़ी कम्पनियों द्वारा लिये गए ऋणों की धनराशि को मुनाफाखोरी के प्रयोजनार्थ उपयोग में लाया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) सरकार इस मामले में क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री और विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री दिग्विजय सिंह): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया स्थिति में सुधार करने की है।